

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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WINSTON, N. C.

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THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER,
Winston, N. C.

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THE CROSS MARK.

The cross mark on your paper indicates that the time for which you subscribed has or is about to expire. It is to give notice so your subscription may be renewed. If the subscription be not renewed the name will be dropped from the list, but we want every one to renew and bring a friend along too.

See our offer to give THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER one year and the Patch Corn Sheller for four dollars. This is the best sheller for the money in America. It is guaranteed and will give entire satisfaction. Send in your orders at once.

A fruit fair will be held in Fayetteville August 4th and 5th.

The House of Representatives last Thursday passed a bill appropriating \$80,000 for the construction a government building at Asheville, in this State.

P. H. Winston, Sr., an eminent citizen of North Carolina, died at his residence at Windsor, in Bertie county, on Monday, 14th inst., after an illness of three years.

The town of Sheffield, Mass., claims to have issued a declaration of independence on January 12th, 1773, over two years prior to the Mecklenburg, N. C., declaration.

The first wheat of the crop of this year arrived in Baltimore on the 16th inst. from the Rappahannock region of Virginia. It was an inferior lot and sold for 80 cents a bushel.

The city of Lynchburg, Va., has voted \$250,000 to the Lynchburg, Halifax and North Carolina railroad, to run from Lynchburg to Durham. Work will begin at once.

Bacon and Gordon on the stump as rival candidates for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination, continue to make things lively in Georgia.

The town of Vancouver, at the terminus of the Pacific Canadian railway, was destroyed by fire on the 15th inst. Out of 500 houses not a half dozen remain. Ten persons lost their lives.

It is proposed to hold a convention of Northern settlers in North Carolina at Raleigh during the next State Fair. The object of the convention is to give encouragement to Northern people contemplating moving to the South.

Senator Jones, of Florida, still holds the lines in Detroit, Mich., laying siege to that obdurate spinster. In the meantime his seat in the Senate remains vacant, as it has been since the beginning of the session of Congress.

The police force of East St. Louis must be a badly demoralized set. They have been discharged because of the discovery of a conspiracy between them and several noted burglars to rob the town and divide the plunder.

The Greensboro Patriot informs us that two little boys "between three and four" years, convicted of some offense in the Superior Court in Greensboro, were sent to jail. What the crime of these little ones was is not stated, but when it comes to sending children three or four years of age to jail it looks like carrying justice to the extreme.

—Senator Vance's bill for the repeal of the Civil Service act was defeated in the Senate last Friday by a vote of 6 for to 36 against.

—Messrs. Louis Bagger & Co., Solicitors of Patents, Washington, D. C., write us that twenty-nine patents were granted to Southern inventors, bearing date of June 15th, 1886.

—Winfield S. Thompson, of Kansas City, Mo., terminated a bridal tour in New York City by shooting his wife in the back of the head and sending four bullets into himself.

—We are in receipt of the premium list for the North Carolina State Fair, beginning October 26th to 29th inclusive. The premiums amount in the aggregate to over \$6,000.

—Ludwig, the crazy King of Bavaria, who was recently dethroned, when out walking on the 14th inst., accompanied by his physician, threw himself into a lake and was drowned. The physician was drowned in attempting to rescue him.

—The National Convention of American Nurserymen was in session in Washington City last week. S. Otho Wilson, J. Van Lindley and G. S. Anthony were present from North Carolina. Mr. J. Van Lindley was chosen Vice-President for our State. The next annual meeting will be held in Chicago.

—The town of Monroe having voted for prohibition, the physicians met and issued notice to the public that they would not prescribe spirits for people who may be thirsty, and in no case unless to those who were really under treatment. They propose to deal squarely with the public and the druggists.

—Miss Tabitha Holton, a native of Guilford county, died at her home in Yadkin county on the 14th inst. Some years ago, after a very creditable examination, she was licensed to practice law by the Supreme Court of this State, while Judge Pearson was Chief Justice. She was the first woman in the South to whom license was granted.

—Mr. Gladstone in his temporary defeat is proving that the title of "grand old man" has not been mistakenly conferred. With heroic resolve he goes before the British people and pleads for justice to misgoverned Ireland. He is building well, and victory is sure to come whether he live to achieve it or not.

—The House of Representatives on last Thursday refused to take up for consideration Mr. Morrison's tariff bill by a vote of 157 nays to 140 yeas. All the members from North Carolina, except O'Hara, colored Republican, favored consideration. Mr. Reid was absent but paired with an opponent of the bill.

—The Richmond & Danville railroad company has purchased the large building in Washington formerly the office of the National Republican. The building will be fitted up as headquarters for the officers of the company, and an apartment will be especially arranged for the display of the mineral, wood, grain and other resources of the Southern country through which its lines run.

—An act has been passed by the New York Legislature and signed by the Governor, limiting imprisonment for debt in that state to six months. All prisoners in Ludlow street jail who have been confined six months are to be released. There are men in that jail who have been imprisoned so long that their friends, if they ever had any, had forgotten that they were alive.

—The proceedings of the Farmers' Clubs which appear in these columns from week to week are attracting much attention from papers in the State, and some of the leading agricultural journals of the country. The Newbern Journal of 15th inst. makes the discussion on tobacco culture, by Cedar Grove Club, the subject of a leading editorial, in which it commends the good sense of the members of that club in resolving to diversify their crops.

—A superabundance of rain during the past six weeks has greatly retarded the farmers in the cultivation of their crops. The overflow of bottom lands has materially damaged the corn and other crops growing on them. Grass on hill and bottom is growing vigorously. Oats, much better and the wheat crop much shorter than was expected some weeks ago. Tobacco shows the damage on some lands by a too rapid growth on others from the presence of too much water on all from too much grass, with the prospect of material injury in the event of a drought, which is not improbable.

WASTING THE MONEY.

For eleven years the University of North Carolina has been appropriating to its own use the sum of \$7,500 a year, amounting in the aggregate (not counting interest) to \$82,500. This money belongs to the farmers and mechanics of North Carolina, and its use, as now applied, is in direct conflict with the purpose and condition upon which the grant from which the fund accrues was made. The flimsy pretense of justification for this use of money which does not belong to the University is, that there is an "agricultural college" in connection with and a part of it. It is so stated at least in the catalogue of the University, where the so-called college is seen (in the catalogue) for the first time after 11 years of incubation. A long, very long hatching period for such a little chicken. We have, without, however, intending any disrespect to the gentlemen who preside over the University, pronounced the assertion that there is an agricultural college at Chapel Hill, in the sense intended by Congress or the State, when the land donation was accepted, a sham and a dishonest pretense. Let us see. The act of Congress prescribes that the land scrip shall be used for the establishment of colleges where agricultural and mechanical instruction shall be the leading features, and so also the act of the North Carolina Legislature accepting the grant provides. Have we such a college at Chapel Hill? Have we, or have we had during these eleven years one single student within the walls of the University who is being, or has been, especially instructed and trained for work on the farm or in the shop? We hazard the assertion that there hasn't been, and is not one, and we don't hazard much in doing so. There are farmers' sons there, doubtless, and mechanics' sons, perhaps, as there have been in other years, and they hear lectures on chemistry, botany, entomology, and on other subjects directly or indirectly connected with the farm, as they probably did years ago, and as is done in all first-class colleges, before the "agricultural college" was heard of, or dreamed of. Agricultural instruction proper is not given simply because it can't be. A boy can't be taught how to plow, to plant, to sow or to reap, without the ground to do it on nor the implements to do it with. As well undertake to teach astronomy without a map of the heavens, or the heavens themselves, as to train boys for the farm or the shop without a farm or a shop.

The founders of the agricultural college in Mississippi, one of the most successful of the 47 institutions of the kind in the Union, did not believe in mere theoretical instruction alone when they began their splendid work. They believed that the training of head and hand should go together to make the fully equipped farmer. In the history of the progress of the college they say:

"It seems that a large class of people desire the young men of the State to combine labor with theoretical instruction, and this is correct when boys are to be educated for farm life. This training should be in connection with a farm, where industrious habits already obtained may be preserved, or given to those not having them. Study for four years without the habit of manual labor creates a disinclination for work, and tends to separate brain work and manual labor, giving discredit to the latter. The development of our agricultural interests necessitates that theory and practice go together in the education of the farmer."

This is pretty good authority, coming, as it does, from men who have achieved a national reputation as agricultural teachers, if authority were needed to enforce a truth so patent to every thinking, sensible man.

But the gentlemen who have charge of the University at Chapel Hill seem to think that they can conduct an agricultural college, or something which they call an agricultural college, without a farm, a plow, a hoe, or seed to plant. They seem to think that an agricultural lecture on some agricultural topic fills the bill and makes the farmer, while they use the \$7,500 a year as the value put upon these lectures.

It may be alleged, and probably will be, that practical instruction cannot be given at Chapel Hill, because the State has not made provision for the purchase of a farm and the erection of necessary buildings.

This is a very good reason why the practical instruction is not given, but it is not a good reason for not a justification of the continued use of the \$7,500 a year without the consent of the farmers, to whom it belongs, or without rendering a fair and honest equivalent. That is what we object to, and that is why we enter these protests. This money should be funded for the farmers, so that at some day they may have an agricultural college in fact, and not a mere pretense.

The plain, unvarnished truth is, this money has been used for all these years, not for the benefit of the farmers' sons, but for the benefit of the University, and it is now so used.

As pertinent to the point under consideration we reproduce a letter written by Gen. Stephen D. Lee, President of the Agricultural College of Mississippi, to the Farmers' Advocate, at St. Paul, Minnesota, in reply to some inquiry as to the method of conducting the college. He says:

"We have, so far for the sessions of 1885-6, a total of 360 students. The key to the success in an agricultural college is to loyally carry out the spirit of the Federal law organizing them, viz: 'to benefit Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts,' and, not to aid other colleges, whose bias are in the line of literary, classical or general education. These institutions are loyal to other objects and they smother the agricultural schools attached. In fact a student who enters to become a farmer and be instructed in that school, is generally ridiculed out of it and pointed to brain development and culture, as the only honorable education. It is an indisputable fact that in such institutions enjoying the proceeds of the land scrip fund to benefit agriculture and mechanic arts, there are no students being benefited in the direction intended by the Federal law. I am therefore of the opinion the farmers should insist that this fund be used as intended, and in a separate college—put in hands loyal to their interests and enjoying their sympathy and encouragement. No college can benefit a class without enjoying its confidence. The technical training in an agricultural college loyally administered, will produce like results to that obtained at West Point, Annapolis, Medical Colleges, Engineering Colleges, etc., administered in their different interests. Testimonials enclosed show that our Mississippi college enjoys the confidence of the farmers. The State Grange endorses it every year, and demands that it be supported, as do the other agricultural societies."

OUR SCHOOLS.

In his address at the Salem Academy Commencement last Thursday, Senator Vance congratulated his hearers on the progress which North Carolina was making, in nothing more forcibly illustrated than in the attention which was everywhere in the State being given to the subject of education, and in the gratifying success of her schools. This is true, and it is something of which the people of North Carolina may justly feel proud. No year within our recollection have the schools shown to better advantage, nor the people shown more interest in them. The commencements everywhere have been unusually largely attended, and the exercises have more than met popular expectation. The State University, Wake Forest, Trinity and Davidson colleges had a full attendance throughout the year, and each sent out to the various avocations of life its quota of graduates. The same may be said of the female seminaries at Salem, Greensboro, Raleigh and Charlotte. The preparatory or intermediate schools, like Bingham's, New Garden, Oak Dale, Oak Ridge, Farmer's, King's Mountain, La Grange, and others that we might mention, male and female, have done a good work, and prospered. And so, too, have our graded schools in Winston, Greensboro, Charlotte, Goldsboro and other towns, done well, and last but not least, good report comes from the common schools of the State, which have been well attended and are growing in favor, popularity and usefulness. The teachers and scholars are to be congratulated, but North Carolina is to be congratulated even more on this progressive movement and the glorious success with which it is meeting.

The burnt district in Wilmington is being rapidly rebuilt.

THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

The Farmers' Alliance, which is said to have originated in Texas about two years ago, is attracting much attention. It now numbers about 2,000 alliances, with a membership of 75,000. It is strictly a business organization—co-operative in principle. The main object is to protect its members in sales of crops and in purchase of supplies, by selling direct to consumers or manufacturers, thus saving to themselves the heavy commissions paid to divers middlemen, and by purchasing in bulk, thus saving the profits heretofore paid to dealers when each farmer bought in small quantities. Their motto is, "Keep out of debt, buy in bulk, and from first hands, and avoid the iron-clad mortgage." There is a bookful of sense crammed into these few lines, and every farmer, whether he lives in Texas or anywhere else, should commit them to memory. The farmer should, when it is possible, avoid debt as he would avoid fire. As the result of his labor is dependent to a great extent upon conditions and contingencies which he cannot control, he don't know whether he will be able to meet his obligations when they mature or not, and if adversity come he is at the mercy of his creditor. He plows his fields, plants his crops; the season may be favorable to germination of seed or not. They may grow off all right and promise well, and then the bug, or fly, may destroy or too much rain bury them in grass, or too much sun parch them, floods wash or winds destroy, so that the farmer is never certain that he is going to reap what he sows; but the debt stares him in the face whether he reap or not, and the implacable creditor must be met. If it is clinched with a mortgage and the creditor insists, then ruin comes. We have known farmers to contract small debts that they thought they could pay without trouble, which took them years to pay, because of unanticipated crop failures or low prices. It is better, far better, to pull along and go without some things that are bought on credit, feel independent, and feel that what you raise, whether it be little or much, is yours, and not somebody else's. "Sell to manufacturers and consumers, and buy in bulk from first parties." The planters and farmers of the South, as well as of the North, have lost millions of dollars annually by their shiftless, unbusiness-like way of selling and buying. They have no more to do with fixing the prices of what they sell or buy than they do with regulating the phases of the moon. They helplessly let the buyer and the seller do that for them, saying what they will give or what they will take. There is no more reason why the planter or farmer should not fix a price upon his cotton, tobacco, grain, beef or pork, than that the buyer or seller should fix the purchase price, and then also fix the price when he sells back to the planter or farmer that same cotton, and tobacco, in manufactured form, or that same grain reduced to flour, or that beef or pork, on all of which at both ends of the trading process the intermediate dealers must have their profits—and they all get more than the planter or farmer does. That is the way they live, and while the men of the plow continue to do business in the old way, they must continue to pay these profits, and be content with little or no profits themselves. Organizations like the Farmers' Alliance, and the Farmers' Clubs now being organized in this State, are bringing these matters prominently before the planters and farmers of the South, and are pointing the way out of the darkness into the light, if the toilers in the field will but stand together and work together as men in other avocations do.

Some admiring newspaper man having suggested the name of George Washington Childs, proprietor of the Philadelphia Ledger, for the Presidency, Mr. Childs rises to remark that while he fully appreciates the honor, he would not touch the Presidency with a forty-foot pole, allegorically speaking. He regards conventions as very uncertain bodies to fool with, but adds that if a nomination were certain he would not take it. He doubtless concludes that a handsomely paying newspaper is a better thing than four years torture in the White House. On the whole Mr. Childs is eminently level-headed, and he is happy, as all truly good and virtuous newspaper men are.